



NORTHAMPTON LICENSE COMMISSION

City Hall, Office of the Mayor
210 Main St., 2nd Floor
Northampton, MA 01060
(413) 587-1212

COMMISSIONERS

Natasha Yakovlev, Chair
Helen Kahn
Jennifer Ewers

Administration, Licensing and Economic Development Coordinator

Annie Lesko

alesko@northamptonma.gov

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, August 2, 2023

Virtual Meeting

4:00 p.m.

The August 2, 2023, License Commission meeting was held via remote participation.

Join Virtual Meeting

- **Video Conference:** <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89511642095?pwd=bDR1RzdrYlhGNIZIWGkxanViMWhBQT09>

OR

- **Telephone, call:** +1-929-436-2866, Meeting ID: 895 1164 2095, Password: 769715

1. **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER** by Commissioner Yakovlev at 4:01 p.m.
ROLL CALL - Commissioners Yakovlev and Kahn were present. Commissioner Kahn was absent
ANNOUNCEMENT OF ZOOM RECORDING made by Commissioner Yakovlev

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT** - None

3. **APPLICATIONS FOR A FARM WINERY LIQUOR LICENSE TO SELL AT FARMERS' MARKETS AND AGRICULTURAL EVENTS**

Black Birch Vineyard, LLC, 108-109 Straits Rd., North Hatfield
Cameron's Winery, LLC, 1046 Millers Falls Rd., Northfield
Hardwick Vineyard & Winery, LLC, 3305 Greenwich Rd., Hardwick

Event & Location: Three County Fair, 54 Fair St., Northampton

Dates/Times: Friday, September 1, 2023 - 4 p.m. - 11 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday, September 2 & 3, 2023 – 10 a.m. - 11 p.m.

Monday, September 4, 2023 - 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

For the record, Commissioner Yakovlev informed all applicants that they should do their best to get their annual applications in for the fair for the July meeting because there won't always be an August meeting.

Michelle Kersbergen of Black Birch Vineyard was present for this application and stated this is the first year selling at the Three County Fair.

Commissioner Ewers stated she saw Black Birch at the Asparagus Festival so they do have experience doing outdoor events.

Commissioner Yakovlev asked Michelle to make a note for next year to have the paperwork together for the July meeting.

Commissioner Yakovlev moved to approve the application for a farm winery liquor license to sell at farmers' markets and agricultural events for Black Birch Vineyard. For the record, Commissioner Ewers, stated that her son is an employee of Black Birch Vineyard and she has completed a financial interest disclosure form in which the Mayor signed off on allowing her to vote on this matter. Commissioner Ewers seconded. The motion passed unanimously 2-0 by a roll call vote.

Leslie Cameron was present for this application and noted this is their first time doing this event but she does have experience at the Big E, the Brimfield Fair, etc.

Commissioner Ewers asked what barn sales will be happening.

James Przypek of the Three County Fair stated sales will be happening in barn 3 which is what has been done in all previous years.

Commissioner Ewers moved to approve the application for a farm winery liquor license to sell at farmers' markets and agricultural events for Cameron's Winery. Commissioner Yakovlev seconded. The motion passed unanimously 2-0 by a roll call vote.

John Samek of Hardwick Winery was present and stated this is not his first time doing the event and it will be conducted the same as in years past. John stated he'd be happy to get the paperwork completed in July of next year and pointed out that the Mass. Dept. of Agricultural Resources needs to approve the application before the License Commission does and they aren't always responsive.

Commissioner Ewers moved to approve the application for a farm winery liquor license to sell at farmers' markets and agricultural events for Hardwick Winery. Commissioner Yakovlev seconded. The motion passed unanimously 2-0 by a roll call vote.

4. **NEW BUSINESS** - None

5. **ADJOURN**

NY motion to adjourn at 4:09 p.m. Commissioner Ewers seconded. The motion to adjourn passed unanimously 2-0 by a roll call vote.